**Organic No-Till Field Day in Mt. Vernon**

*Come see what's happening with the field trials!*

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Throughout the US, no-till production systems have worked well, saving thousands of acres of topsoil from erosion each year, but not without the aid of an herbicide to bring down the cover crop each spring. Thanks to the work of organic researchers from coast to coast development of an effective organic no-till system is progressing.

Washington State University Extension researchers have been working on adapting organic no-till to work on the 'Wetside' of Washington over the past two years.

We invite you to join us Monday, September 19, 2011, 4:00-6:00 pm at the Mount Vernon Northwestern Washington Research and Extension Center, 16650 State Route 536, Mt. Vernon.

There will be an on-farm discussion of organic no-till management practices and techniques. Basic principles such as mechanical termination of cover crops and cover crop selection will be among the topics covered by WSU Extension Faculty Doug Collins, Andrew Corbin and Chris Benedict.

Participants at the Puyallup field trials on August 29th were impressed with the labor reduction associated with the reduced till systems and the amount of weeding necessary in the tilled plots. Entry level equipment required and timing of cover crop termination were also among the common take-home messages voiced by the Puyallup participants.

A “Virtual Field Day” on flailing and rolling cover crops for reduced till management can be seen here: <http://smallfarms.wsu.edu/soils-compost/research/organicnotill.html>

For successful Western Washington organic no-till production, unique challenges include cover crop variety selection, acquisition of specific equipment, and timing of cover crop termination. In addition, growers adopting reduced tillage will face particular challenges with certain perennial weeds.

No advance registration necessary. For more information on the Field Days, contact Andrew Corbin, corbina@wsu.edu or 425.357.6012.

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